



FEBRUARY COMMUNITY CHAT “CITY BUDGET”

Saturday, February 9 at Maid Rite

MARCH COMMUNITY CHAT “NORWALK SCHOOL”

Officials will be talking about the administration building

Saturday, March 9 at Maid Rite



CITY HALL

705 North Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Phone: 515-981-0228
Open 8:00am – 4:30pm, Monday – Friday

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

City Manager
Marketa Oliver
marketao@norwalk.iowa.gov
515-981-0228 ext. 234

City Clerk

Jeff Rosien
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515-981-0228 ext. 233

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Director
Josh Heggen
joshh@norwalk.iowa.gov
515-981-0228 ext. 226

FIRE AND EMS SERVICES

1100 Chatham Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Emergencies: 911
Non-emergency: 515-222-3321
Administrative: 515-981-0666

Fire Chief

Dustin Huston
dhuston@norwalk.iowa.gov

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1100 Chatham Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Emergencies: 911
Non-emergency: 515-222-3321
Administrative: 515-981-0666

Police Chief

Ed Kuhl
ekuhl@norwalk.iowa.gov

PUBLIC WORKS

2626 North Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Phone: 515-981-0228

Public Works Director

Tim Hoskins
timh@norwalk.iowa.gov

PARKS AND RECREATION

1100 Chatham Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Phone: 515-981-9206

Parks and Recreation Director

Nancy Kuehl
nancyk@norwalk.iowa.gov

PUBLIC LIBRARY

1051 North Avenue
Norwalk, IA 50211
Phone: 515-981-0217

Library Director

Holly Sealine
hollys@norwalk.iowa.gov

MAYOR’S MOMENT

While writing this, we just made it through our second major snowfall event and with that, 197 snow ordinance tickets were issued and 7 vehicles towed. I know this is a frustrating situation, so I am going to write a brief summary of Norwalk’s Snow Ordinance Policy (Ordinance 69.10 SNOW REMOVAL) and where you can obtain the information you need to comply.

The Ordinance reads, “No person shall park, abandon or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street, alley, or City-owned off-street parking area during any snow emergency. When predictions or occurrences indicate the need, the Public Works Director shall initiate a snow emergency and inform the news media to publicize the snow emergency. The snow emergency shall remain in effect until the Public Works Director declares it over.”

Besides the news media, a Snow Ordinance alert is placed on the home page of our website with a date/time that it will go into effect and a date/time that it will expire. If an expiration time is not stated, the Snow Ordinance will remain in effect until the Public Works Director states otherwise which will also be posted on our website. To be specific, the most recent posting read, “The City Snow Ordinance will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 30 and stay in place until 12:00 noon on Thursday, January 31. Remove vehicles from the street to avoid a ticket or tow.”

I have talked with Police Chief Kuhl and he believes that there is confusion generated once the streets have initially been plowed, so residents think that parking in the street is ok in their area. However, Public Works may have more “clean-up” they want to do, so the ordinance will still be in effect for their benefit. Our Public Works crews work some very difficult hours to try and get our streets in the best possible condition they can for the morning commute. Their “sleep sacrifice” is sure made a lot more pleasant when the streets are clear of vehicles.



Doug Pierce,
Mayor

When you read this, we will be well into February with March Madness around the corner and thoughts of Spring creeping into our minds. This month, I would like to talk about home safety in regard to carbon monoxide (CO) which is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that is the most common type of fatal air poisoning. This gas is so deadly because it combines with the blood’s hemoglobin which, in turn, prevents the normal delivery of oxygen to body tissues. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, fatigue and a feeling of weakness which leads many families to believe they are victims of food poisoning. Our Fire Department (NFD) recently responded to a CO event that demonstrates the value of a CO monitor in the home.

To expand on the “event”, a homeowner came home to find his CO monitor sounding its alarm. He immediately left the house and called 9-1-1 that resulted in NFD responding. The FD sensing equipment showed a CO level of 20 parts/million (30 parts/million or above is life threatening) throughout the house. The NFD deployed fans to “vent” the house; however, they still detected levels of 20 parts/million in pockets.

The reason for the excessive level of CO turned out to be the outside vent for the furnace. Because the vent went out the side of the house, a screen was placed over the end to prevent rodent access. This screen allowed the formation of ice that eventually completely blocked the airflow through it which forced the exhaust to remain in the house causing the CO buildup and the sensor to “alarm”.

The lesson learned from this situation is that a CO monitor should be a priority in our homes. In this case, it may have saved lives.

On a happier thought, have a Happy Valentine’s Day!

PARKS & RECREATION

UPCOMING REGISTRATIONS:

Fitness classes – Mar 11 to Mar 22

Baseball & Softball Programs – Mar 18 to Mar 29

(Be sure to check our website or brochure for our registration procedure.)

NON REGISTRATION EVENTS:

Family Open Gym – Feb 17, 24

OPALS –Mar 1

Bingo – Mar 3

EXPOSING AN INVISIBLE KILLER: THE DANGERS OF CARBON MONOXIDE

Each year in America, more than 150 people die from accidental non-fire related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning associated with consumer products. These products include faulty, improperly-used or incorrectly-vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces. *Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission*

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISK

What is carbon monoxide?

CO, often called “the silent killer,” is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell. It can be created when fossil fuels, such as kerosene, gasoline, coal, natural gas, propane, methane or wood do not burn properly.

Where does carbon monoxide come from?

CO poisoning can result from faulty furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers or cars left running in garages.

What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, nausea and drowsiness. Exposure to undetected high levels of carbon monoxide can be fatal.

CO ALARMS: TESTING AND REPLACEMENT

- Test CO alarms at least once a month and replace them if they fail to respond correctly when tested. The sensors in CO alarms have a limited life. Replace the CO alarm according to manufacturer’s instructions or when the end-of-life signal sounds.

IF YOUR CO ALARM SOUNDS

- Immediately move to a fresh air location (outdoors or by an open window or door). Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for.

- Call 9-1-1 or the fire department from a fresh air location (outdoors or by an open window). Remain at a fresh air location until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

To learn more, read the full article on our website at www.ci.norwalk.ia.us.

SELECT THE RIGHT ICE MELT

Winter is not yet over in Iowa and we will most likely see more snow and ice before we see flowers. The common chemicals used to fight snow and ice in our region are “ice melt” or “salt” on roads and sidewalks. Standard ice melt compounds are usually a form of chloride-based salts. Such products as calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, or sodium chloride are the most common. The City of Norwalk as well as the Iowa Department of Transportation and most other cities use some or most of these chemicals. Likewise, many property owners will use the same products in the cleaning of their walks and driveways. Norwalk, like many other communities require sidewalks to be cleared within a given time after a snow event which further pushes the need to use snow and ice melting products to expedite the process.

Chloride based salts are generally considered to be some of the most environmentally friendly products available for this type of use. Anyone that has lived in Iowa knows

how corrosive even these materials can be to your vehicles and in some cases roadside vegetation. These are most common products found in homes today in various uses. Sodium chloride is table salt. Potassium chloride is commonly found as a garden and yard fertilizer. Rock salt is used in the making of home made ice cream to accelerate the hardening of the mix. Using salt to increase the speed of making ice cream applies the same chemistry principles that result in salt applications to streets and sidewalk melting ice. Salts lower the freezing/melting points of water from 32 degrees. In general most commercially available salts work well at preventing ice formation to temperatures as low as 15 degrees.

Mother Nature effectively deals with most recommended salt applications by way of the diluting effect of these salts due to rainfall. The environmental impact from recommended salt sources is typically minimal. The Norwalk Public Works Department tries to minimize the use of salt as much as possible. In the last few years the use of salt brine has increased which is significantly less concentrated than straight rock salt. Environmentally it is important to know that there are some products that can be quite harmful if used as ice melting materials. Traditional lawn care fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus are good examples of products not to use. Of course simply shoveling as much of the snow as possible is the best practice to protect our environment and water supply.

NORWALK SCHOOL SAFETY A PRIORITY

The recent tragedy at Sandy Hook has caused everyone to reflect upon the safety of our children and our school staff. We want to assure you that the Norwalk Police Department in partnership with the Norwalk School District are closely scrutinizing facilities, procedures, training and staffing, classroom-by-classroom and school-by-school. We know that safety is our greatest responsibility.

The School Resource Officer is one key to deterring violence and is also a rapid response if needed. This program began in 2000 through a federal grant in partnership between the Norwalk Police Department and the Norwalk School District. Today there’s a police officer full-time in the Norwalk High School/Middle School complex and a part-time officer assigned to Lakewood and Oviatt Elementary Schools. These officers are trained, certified and armed. They also maintain instant communication with our Police Dispatch Center. Those Officers conduct investigations, teach classes, and help develop school safety procedures. They also counsel parents and students when concerns arise. They work as the primary liaison between the Police Department and the Norwalk Schools.

Steps have also been taken to significantly limit public access into our school facilities. The police officers and staff are trained on procedures and training exercises have been conducted to evaluate our efforts. We have also made advanced information available to the additional agencies that would likely respond to assist us.

The “Watch Dog” program and the “Parent Teachers Organization” have also been helpful to get an even greater presence in our schools. These are parents that have volunteered to spend a portion of their time assisting the school staff within each school.

The Mayor and Police Chief have also met with their counterparts in the metro area to discuss these same issues, share information and identify how we might better work together to make our schools even more secure.

Our School District and Police Department will continue to move forward in partnership and we are committed to provide for the safety of our students and our staff.

Denny Wulf
Superintendent

Eddie H. Kuhl
Police Chief



SEE US ON THE WEB AT WWW.CI.NORWALK.IA.US
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE TO BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO OUR SITE!

Follow us!